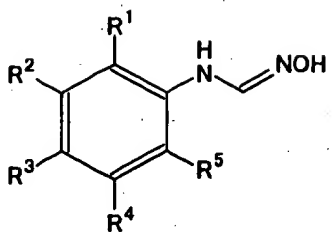


wherein R^1 to R^5 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom; a hydroxyl group; a carboxyl group; a halogen atom; a C_{1-14} alkyl group; a C_{1-14} alkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkenyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{2-6} alkynyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{2-10} alkanoyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a mono- or di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzoylamino group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a nitro group; a thiol group; a phenoxy group; a phenoxy group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and halogen atoms; a phenylthio group; a nitrophenylthio group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylthio wherein the benzene ring is substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a benzyl group substituted with a bicyclo[2.2.1]-

hept-5-en-2,3-dicarboxyimidyl group; a benzoyl group; a styryl group; a styryl group substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino alkyl groups; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a phthalimidoyl group; a phthalimidoyl group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; an N-carbazolyl group; a dioxopiperidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a phenylsulfonylamino group; a phenylsulfonylamino group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group substituted with a substituted phenyl group wherein the substituents in the substituted phenyl group are 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; a thienopyrimidinylthio group; a thienopyrimidinylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a thienopyridylthio group; a thienopyridylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a benzothiazolylthio group; a benzothiazolylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; a group represented by the formula: $-Y-(CR^{61}R^{62})_m-(CR^{63}R^{64})_n-R^7$ [wherein Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^7 represents a hydrogen atom; a halogen atom; a C_{1-14} alkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{2-10} alkenyl

group; a C_{2-6} alkynyl group; a phenyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro groups, cyano groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, phenyl groups, phenoxy groups, phenethyl groups, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, and halogen atoms; a cyano group; a carboxyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenoxy group; a phenylthio group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)toluidino group; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyrrolidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperadinyl group; a piperadin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridylthio group; a quinolyl group; a furyl group; an oxetanyl group; an oxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an oxanyl group; a dioxanyl group; a dioxanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxanyl group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)pyrrolidinyl group; a piperidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)piperidinyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 2,6-purindion-7-yl group substituted

with C_{1-6} alkyl group(s); a furfuryl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; or a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6]; or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ [wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5-dioxopiperadino group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group], or alternatively,

the two groups adjacent to each other of R^1 to R^5, taken together with the benzene ring to which they are bonded, form a phthalimide ring; a phthalimide ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an indole ring; an indane ring; an indazole ring; a benzotriazole ring; an S,S-dioxobenzothiophene ring; a 2,3-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole ring; a dibenzofuran ring; a dibenzofuran ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a fluorene ring; a fluorene ring substituted with a halogen atom; a pyrene ring; a carbostyryl ring; a carbostyryl ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a naphthalene ring; a naphthalene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, nitro groups, and C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; a quinoline ring; a quinoline ring substituted with a

C_{1-6} alkyl group; an isoquinoline ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a cinnolin ring; a cinnolin ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phthalazindione ring; a benzothiazol ring; a benzothiazol ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxorane ring; or a benzobutyrolactone ring,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Amended) The method of inhibiting production of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid, comprising administering an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^1 to R^5 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom; a hydroxyl group; a carboxyl group; a halogen atom; a C_{1-14} alkyl group; a C_{1-14} alkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkynyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{2-10} alkanoyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a mono- or di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzoylamino group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a nitro group; a thiol group; a phenoxy group; a phenoxy group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and halogen atoms; a phenylthio group; a nitrophenylthio group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylthio group wherein the benzene ring is

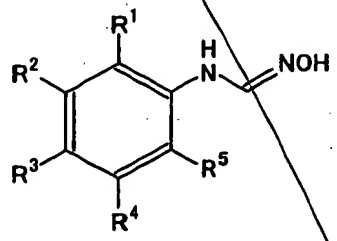
substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a benzyl group substituted with a bicyclo[2.2.1]-hept-5-en-2,3-dicarboxyimidyl group; a benzoyl group; a styryl group; a styryl group substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino alkyl groups; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a phthalimidoyl group; a phthalimidoyl group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; an N-carbazolyl group; a dioxopiperidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a phenylsulfonylamino group; a phenylsulfonylamino group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group substituted with a substituted phenyl group wherein the substituents in the substituted phenyl group are 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; a thienopyrimidinylthio group; a thienopyrimidinylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a thienopyridylthio group; a thienopyridylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a benzothiazolylthio group; a benzothiazolylthio group

substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; or a group represented by the formula: -Y-$(CR^{61}R^{62})_m$-$(CR^{63}R^{64})_n$-R^7 [wherein Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^7 represents a hydrogen atom; a halogen atom; a C_{1-14} alkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{2-10} alkenyl group; a C_{2-6} alkynyl group; a phenyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro groups, cyano groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, phenyl groups, phenoxy groups, phenethyl groups, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, and halogen atoms; a cyano group; a carboxyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenoxy group; a phenylthio group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)toluidino group; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyrrolidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperadinyl group; a piperadin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridylthio group; a quinolyl group; a furyl group; an oxetanyl group; an oxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an oxanyl group; a

dioxanyl group; a dioxanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxanyl group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)pyrrolidinyl group; a piperidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)piperidinyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 2,6-purindion-7-yl group substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl group(s); a furfuryl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; or a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6], or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Amended) The method of inhibiting production of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid, comprising administering an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 2, wherein R^1, R^2, R^4, and R^5 represent hydrogen atoms.

4. (Amended) A therapeutic method for treatment of a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease or a circulatory disease, said method comprising administering to a patient having a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease or a circulatory disease an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative represented by the formula:



wherein R^1 to R^5 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom; a hydroxyl group; a carboxyl group; a halogen atom; a C_{1-14} alkyl group; a C_{1-14} alkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkenyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{2-6} alkynyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{2-10}

alkanoyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a mono- or di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzoylamino group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a nitro group; a thiol group; a phenoxy group; a phenoxy group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and halogen atoms; a phenylthio group; a nitrophenylthio group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylthio wherein the benzene ring is substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a benzyl group substituted with a bicyclo[2.2.1]-hept-5-en-2,3-dicarboxyimidyl group; a benzoyl group; a styryl group; a styryl group substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino alkyl groups; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a phthalimidoyl group; a phthalimidoyl group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; an N-carbazolyl group; a dioxopiperidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a phenylsulfonylamino group; a

phenylsulfonylamino group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group substituted with a substituted phenyl group wherein the substituents in the substituted phenyl group are 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; a thienopyrimidinylthio group; a thienopyrimidinylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a thienopyridylthio group; a thienopyridylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a benzothiazolylthio group; a benzothiazolylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; a group represented by the formula: $-Y-(CR^{61}R^{62})_m-(CR^{63}R^{64})_n-R^7$ [wherein Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^7 represents a hydrogen atom; a halogen atom; a C_{1-14} alkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{2-10} alkenyl group; a C_{2-6} alkynyl group; a phenyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro groups, cyano groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, phenyl groups, phenoxy groups, phenethyl groups, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, and halogen atoms; a cyano group; a carboxyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenoxy group; a phenylthio group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)toluidino

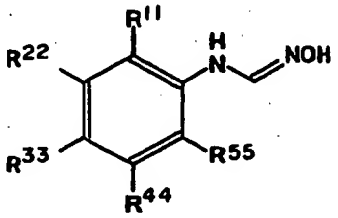
group; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyrrolidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperadinyl group; a piperadin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridylthio group; a quinolyl group; a furyl group; an oxetanyl group; an oxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an oxanyl group; a dioxanyl group; a dioxanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxanyl group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)pyrrolidinyl group; a piperidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)piperidinyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 2,6-purindion-7-yl group substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl group(s); a furfuryl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; or a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6]; or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ [wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3

C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5-dioxopiperadino group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group], or alternatively,

the two groups adjacent to each other of R^1 to R^5, taken together with the benzene ring to which they are bonded, form a phthalimide ring; a phthalimide ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an indole ring; an indane ring; an indazole ring; a benzotriazole ring; an S,S-dioxobenzothiophene ring; a 2,3-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole ring; a dibenzofuran ring; a dibenzofuran ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a fluorene ring; a fluorene ring substituted with a halogen atom; a pyrene ring; a carbostyryl ring; a carbostyryl ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a naphthalene ring; a naphthalene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, nitro groups, and C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; a quinoline ring; a quinoline ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an isoquinoline ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a cinnolin ring; a cinnolin ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phthalazindione ring; a benzothiazol ring; a benzothiazol ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxorane ring; or a benzobutyrolactone ring,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Twice amended) A hydroxyformamidine derivative represented by the formula:



wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a C_{2-6} alkenyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{2-10} alkanoyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzoylamino group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylthio group wherein the benzene ring is substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a benzyl group substituted with a bicyclo[2.2.1]-hept-5-en-2,3-dicarboxyimidyl group; a styryl group; a styryl group substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino alkyl groups; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and

C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a phthalimidoyl group; a phthalimidoyl group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; an N-carbazolyl group; a dioxopiperidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a phenylsulfonylamino group; a phenylsulfonylamino group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group substituted with a substituted phenyl group wherein the substituents in the substituted phenyl group are 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; a thienopyrimidinylthio group; a thienopyrimidinylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a thienopyridylthio group; a thienopyridylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a benzothiazolylthio group; a benzothiazolylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; a group represented by the formula: $-Y-(CR^{61}R^{62})_m-(CR^{63}R^{64})_n-R^{77}$ [wherein Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^{77} represents a halogen atom; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{2-10} alkenyl group; a phenyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro groups, cyano groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, phenyl groups, phenoxy groups, phenethyl groups, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, and halogen atoms; a cyano group; a carboxyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6}

alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenoxy group; a phenylthio group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)toluidino group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperazinyl group; a piperazin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridylthio group; a quinolyl group; a furyl group; an oxetanyl group; an oxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an oxanyl group; a dioxanyl group; a dioxanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxanyl group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)pyrrolidinyl group; a piperidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)piperidinyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 2,6-purindion-7-yl group substituted with at least one C_{1-6} alkyl group; a furfuryl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; or a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6]; or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ [wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl

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group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5- dioxopiperazin-1-yl group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group], or alternatively,

the two groups adjacent to each other of R^{11} to R^{55}, taken together with the benzene ring to which they are bonded, form a phthalimide ring; a phthalimide ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an indole ring; an indane ring; an indazole ring; a benzotriazole ring; an S,S-dioxobenzothiophene ring; a 2,3-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole ring; a dibenzofuran ring; a dibenzofuran ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a fluorene ring; a fluorene ring substituted with a halogen atom; a pyrene ring; a carbostyryl ring; a carbostyryl ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a naphthalene ring; a naphthalene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, nitro groups, and C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; a quinoline ring; a quinoline ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an isoquinoline ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a cinnolin ring; a cinnolin ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phthalazindione ring; a benzothiazol ring; a benzothiazol ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxorane ring; and a benzobutyrolactone ring, and the remaining

groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Amended) The hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzoylamino group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylthio group wherein the benzene ring is substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a benzyl group substituted with a bicyclo[2.2.1]-hept-5-en-2,3-dicarboxyimidyl group; a styryl group; a styryl group substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino alkyl groups; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a

phthalimidoyl group; a phthalimidoyl group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; an N-carbazolyl group; a dioxopiperidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a phenylsulfonylamino group; a phenylsulfonylamino group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group substituted with a substituted phenyl group wherein the substituents in the substituted phenyl group are 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; a thienopyrimidinylthio group; a thienopyrimidinylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a thienopyridylthio group; a thienopyridylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a benzothiazolylthio group; a benzothiazolylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ [wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or

alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5-dioxopiperadino group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group], or alternatively,

the two groups adjacent to each other of R^{11} to R^{55}, taken together with the benzene ring to which they are bonded, form a phthalimide ring; a phthalimide ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an indole ring; an indane ring; an indazole ring; a benzotriazole ring; an S,S-dioxobenzothiophene ring; a 2,3-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]benzothiazole ring; a dibenzofuran ring; a dibenzofuran ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a fluorene ring; a fluorene ring substituted with a halogen atom; a pyrene ring; a carbostyryl ring; a carbostyryl ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a naphthalene ring; a naphthalene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, nitro groups, and C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; a quinoline ring; a quinoline ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an isoquinoline ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a cinnolin ring; a cinnolin ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phthalazindione ring; a benzothiazol ring; a benzothiazol ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxorane ring; and a benzobutyrolactone ring, and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

7. (Amended) The hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 6, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group

substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ [wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with

1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5-dioxopiperazin-1-yl group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group] and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

8. (Amended) The hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a group represented by the formula: $-Y-(CR^{61}R^{62})_m-(CR^{63}R^{64})_n-R^{77}$ [wherein Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^{77} represents a halogen atom; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{2-10} alkenyl group; a phenyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro groups, cyano groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, phenyl groups, phenoxy groups, phenethyl groups, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, and halogen atoms; a cyano group; a carboxyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenoxy group; a phenylthio group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)toluidino group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperazinyl piperadinyl group; a piperazin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridylthio group; a quinolyl group; a furyl group; an oxetanyl group; an oxolanyl group; an dioxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an oxanyl group; a dioxanyl group; a dioxanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxanyl group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)pyrrolidinyl group; a piperidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)piperidinyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 2,6-purindion-7-yl group substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl group(s); a furfuryl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; or a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6], and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

9. (Amended) The hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 8, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a group represented by the formula: -O-$(CR^{61}R^{62})_m$-$(CR^{63}R^{64})_n$-R^{77} [wherein R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^{77} represents a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a piperidyl group; a piperidyl piperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

a piperidino group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyridylthio group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrrolidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a morpholino group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperazinyl group; piperazin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; or a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6], and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

11. (Amended) A method of inhibiting production of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid, comprising administering an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 5 to 9.

12. (Amended) A therapeutic method for treatment of a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease, said method comprising administering to a patient having a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 5 to 9.

Please add the following new claims:

13. A method of inhibiting production of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid, comprising administering an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to claim 10.

14. A therapeutic method for treatment of a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease, said method comprising administering to a patient having a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to claim 10.